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INFORMATIONAL LETTER REGARDING THE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID DEALING AND FITTING

During the 123rd First Regular Legislative Session, Governor Baldacci signed into law "An Act To Create the Board of Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dealing and Fitting" (2007 Public Law, Chapter 369). This law combines two separate licensure boards into one new licensure board effective **December 1, 2007**. There are several provisions of the new law of which you should be aware, some of which are highlighted below:

- Maine Hearing Aid Businesses are no longer required to be licensed effective December 1, 2007;
- Maine Licensed Audiologists are no longer required to maintain a separate Hearing Aid Dealer & Fitter license to dispense hearing aids effective December 1, 2007;
- A Maine Licensed Audiologist's scope of practice includes the dispensing of hearing aids effective December 1, 2007;
- Maine Licensed Hearing Aid Businesses will not be required to renew their business licenses in January of 2008;
- Maine Licensed Audiologists will not be required to renew their Hearing Aid Dealer & Fitter license in January of 2008;
- Maine Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists and Maine Licensed Audiologists are still required to renew on or before February 29, 2008; and
- Maine Licensed Hearing Aid Dealers & Fitters are still required to renew on or before January 31, 2008.

For more information:

The first meeting of the new Board of Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dealing and Fitting will be scheduled for December 2007. For more information regarding the new law please feel free to contact Penny Vaillancourt, Board Administrator, via email penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov or via telephone (207)624-8420.

2007 Public Law Chapter 369 can be accessed at:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/ros/lom/LOM123rd/PUBLIC369.asp>



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